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School Committee Minutes 02/10/2009

Approved by School Committee March 10, 2009

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Present: Denise Burns, Chair, Leba Heigham
Joe Curran, Vice Chair, Jeff Thielman
Ronald Spangler, Secretary Joe Curro

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Chief Financial Officer: Sue Mazzarella
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

Absent: Sue Sheffler

Ms. Burns opened the meeting of February 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. The committee members voted to enter into Executive Session with Attorney Alan Miller from Stoneman Chandler and Miller.

*Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 7:23 pm.
Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 9:42 and returned at 9:45 p.m.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:33 p.m. to 7:23 p.m.

Mr. Curran motioned to move into Executive Session to strategize with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and to hear two level 3 grievances, seconded by Mr. Spangler.

Roll Call: Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, and Mr. Curro Yes.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

Mr. Thielman motioned to exit out of Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. and break for one hour to return to open session at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curran.

Roll Call: Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, and Mr. Curro Yes.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SNOW AND GROUNDS UPDATE

Director of DPW, Mr. John Bean and Director of Maintenance, Mr. Mark Miano spoke on the procedures of DPW clearing streets and sidewalks during snowstorms. The main focus of discussion was the sidewalks closest to the school areas and the excess snow on the roof at the Bishop School. Ms. Bodie and members asked the community to

clear their own sidewalks in front of each home so students are not walking in the streets and contact the Principal at each school if further issues arise. Mr. Miano stated the roof at the Bishop would be addressed as soon as possible. Mr. Miano will also address the sanding of the parking lot at the Ottoson Middle School. The committee and community appreciate the custodians at each school on the demands of clearing snow, sanding and cleaning each of the schools.

2009 - 2010 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR DISCUSSION

Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie put before the committee three calendar drafts about the start of the school year for 2009 - 2010.

Draft #1

- § September 8 and 9 Teachers return
- § September 10, Students first day,
- § September 14th Kindergarten first day
- § June 23 - 180th day for students, if no snow days

Draft #2

- § August 31 and September 1 Teachers return
- § September 2 Students first day
- § September ? Kindergarten first day
- § June 17th 180th day for students, if no snow days

Draft #3

- § September 2 and 3 Teachers return
- § September 8 Students first day
- § September ? Kindergarten first day
- § June 21 - 180th day for students, if no snow days

After the committee members discussed various scenarios about the school schedules, vacations and professional development days, Ms. Bodie concluded that a survey to parents would be made available and impact bargaining with the union must take place before a decision could be made.

BUDGET FY 10

Ms. Burns, Mr. Thielman and Mr. Curro represented the School Committee at the Budget Task Force Meeting held Monday evening, the night before the School Committee meeting. CFO Sue Mazarella summarized the Five Year Plan, Scenario 3 that the Budget Task Force handed out. Interim Superintendent Bodie discussed the Arlington Public Schools FY 10 Forecasting Tool and Budget Analysis report that was offered tonight. FY 09 User Fees and Rental Rates for the Arlington Public Schools were also distributed.

Ms. Bodie assured the committee that her administrative team is continuing to plan budget reductions at a few various levels and prefers not to disclose any of the scenarios at this time. A few members would like the committee to review the scenarios for discussion, while others agree to wait until additional revenue data is available.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Bodie was happy to announce the Screening Committee for the Principal of Ottoson Middle School has selected three finalist who will be visiting Arlington.

William F. Grubb, Assistant Principal at the Chenery Middle School in Belmont

Timothy R. Ruggere, Principal of the Dedham Middle School in Dedham

Jacob S. Edwards, Assistant Principal, O'Maley Middle School, Gloucester

Ms. Bodie will review feedback from teachers, administrative team and parents after meeting each candidate and make her decision by the first week of March.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Burns distributed an article from the Sunday Boston Globe on Arlington High School Music Technology Teacher John DiTomaso. The Stratton School artwork was supplied to the School Committee room for the month of February.

The METCO Director invited the committee and others to the Metco Legislative Caucus breakfast the next morning where funding cuts to the METCO program would be heard.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Curro presented the final copy of the District Goals and Grid that was voted and approved on January 27, 2009. He also provided copies of two warrant articles he thought might require a School Committee opinion at Town Meeting this year : Town Government Reorganization Committee Article and Home Rule Legislation/Barbara Goodman Article, and will consult with the Board of Selectmen if they are seeking a formal opinion from the School Committee. Mr. Curro made a recommendation to Ms. Bodie that Arlington Public Schools should provide reference materials for families that are experiencing hardships. Suggested materials included Youth Service Hotline numbers, Free and Reduced Lunch applications, WIC and SNAP program information. It was also suggested contacting the Board of Health for additional service information. Ms. Bodie agreed and encourages families that qualify to take advantage of applying for assistance in the lunch program and school activities fee.

Ms. Heigham informed the committee on the past Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment meeting and the next meeting will be March 16, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Thielman and Ms. Burns will research the warrant articles that were presented and return an update to the full committee.

Mr. Spangler offered an update on the last School Facility Working Group meeting held in January and pointed out that Katherine Craven will do a walk thru of the Thompson School on February 26, 2009.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received by Nancy Gray dated January 28, 2009 regarding Minuteman Regional Vocation Technical School programs being offered in robotics and automation.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

* **Approval of School Committee minutes from January 13, 2009**

* **Approval of Warrant #09109 in the amount of \$ 1,602,241.30 dated January 27, 2009**

On a motion by Mr. Spangler it was voted to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Vote 5:0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Thielman it was voted to adjourn at 10:23 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.
Vote 5:0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee **rs**